

WHAT HAS POPULAR EXTRAVAGANCE DONE FOR YOUR CHILDREN? JAZZ MUSIC AND THE JOY-RIDE NOW REPLACE OLD-TIME PARTIES

RETURN TO FORMER STANDARDS IS URGED BY MRS. VAN WINKLE

Younger Generation Insists on Making a Showing
Equal to That of Their Neighbors, She Says.
Analysis of the Modern Home.

By Mina C. Van Winkle.

ARE we Americans going the right way in our present-day attitudes towards the art of living?

So often this question and its kindred doubts are expressed to me in queries asked by Washington mothers and other persons responsible for the training of our army of wriggling, restless young Americans. It is difficult to answer definitely without seeming to criticize the very prosperous conditions which have made the United States the world's most influential nation.

For my answer, I can point out the old adage which declares that the proof of any pudding is in the eating. Does our rising generation prove that the extravagance, the luxurious mode of life we enjoy today as compared with the privations of the generation now passing tends to make self-reliant, thrifty, well-poised, dependable, responsible and clear-brained young men and women?

Has the increase in the ability to spend on the part of the average family benefited the children?

Simpler Ideals Gone.

To my mind the American child of today is proof enough that we are consuming the pudding of our economic prosperity in a way that will eventually lead towards national indigestion. The American father and mother are spending too much of their surplus money in a way that is disastrous for their children's future happiness.

The richest of them do not hold to their simpler ideals of their poorer days and use their newly acquired gains for good towards humanity or for the rainy day that may come to any enterprise. The wage earner, as soon as he begins to make a surplus, turns it over to his family to spend indiscriminately rather than to save for the future.

It is the prevalent idea that with every turn in the road towards more prosperity we must raise our outgoing budget to meet our higher income status. As we become more prosperous, we increase our living expenses

rather than our savings bank account.

The effect of such an attitude on the children is one that completely destroys the discipline of the child in his or her home. We have begun to swing the pendulum too far away from the extreme ignorance and neglect of childhood that prevailed in the period when Charles Dickens wrote "Oliver Twist."

For the first time in history, our children have become our public and our family liabilities. We can talk at great length about reducing the armaments of nations but if we persist in allowing our children to grow up with no sense of self-sacrifice and personal responsibility towards the whole scheme of things, we cannot hope for a successful program for the world.

RULE FOR INSERT

What am I to think of the seven-year-old boy who applied to a friend of mine to help him out of debt made to a jeweler from whom he had bought a platinum bar pin set with rubies for a girl acquaintance? What of the thirteen-year-old boy who takes his father's car out of the family garage without permission for a so-called joy ride?

The first boy, I am told, refused to go to school any longer and was successful in obtaining a job downtown with a business firm which paid him at the rate of \$1,800 a year. Although he had become a wage earner and thereby ceased as it were to be dependent upon his parents' bounty, continued to earn his clothes from a high-priced tailor and made no change whatever in his

CAPITAL'S CHIEF OF POLICEWOMEN



Mrs. Mina C. Van Winkle and types of happy childhood she would have in jazzless home.

habits of spending. He had been told, so my friend declares, that he now must make his salary cover his needs.

Pay Too High

His salary, of course, was far too high for a boy of his age, particularly as he had shown no special aptitude for the work he was in nor for any other line of activity. When he was growing up he had been allowed to use his mother's charge accounts and the various stores about town.

He proceeded to charge the things

he could not afford after starting to work, to his own account. Finally, under pressure from the jeweler, his creditors were about to foreclose on him. He did not want this to happen as his parents knew nothing of his debts, so called on the father of an old school friend.

It was only after considerable deliberation that my friend decided to lend the boy enough money to pay the most pressing debts. He hopes now that in this way he has saved the confidence the parents have in the boy and that the experience has taught him a valuable lesson in economics. He realized all through

the affair, he said, that the boy was not altogether to blame for difficulties in which he found himself.

He was never taught the value of a dollar nor how hard it is to get sometimes, and he was thrust suddenly on his own resources without any preparation. The purchase of the platinum bar pin was strictly in keeping with the extravagance and false ideas of his early training.

Sometimes it is greed for more money that causes parents to starve their children of the spiritual and personal development which should be their inalienable

right. And the girls of the family pay the heavier consequences of this economic blindness.

So many, many girls do not have any quarters where they may entertain their girl and boy friends. I am thinking now of a foreman carpenter employed by a large industrial corporation. His wages even in the old days were sufficient to give his family a comfortable home. But he and his wife had determined upon a policy of saving every penny they could get for an old age that would be free from toil and sacrifice.

The wife opened a rooming house. The family was housed in such rooms as could not be leased and became subordinated to the primary object of the parents' existence, which was to make more and more money. The room which might have served the daughters as a living room or parlor was rented to lodgers. Recently this couple came to me with their fifteen-year-old daughter and asked that she be placed in a reform school because she was unmanageable.

Girl Is Neglected.

I refused to do this on the ground that she was not a reform school case. I told them she needed companionship and urged them to take some of their hoarded dollars and send her away for a year at least to a boarding school where she would have a different environment. The father absolutely refused to do this and the girl has been taken back to the old conditions.

The parents in their short-sighted way have refused an investment which would have brought them much comfort of mind in this old age against which they are so strenuously saving.

Another factor which causes the present-day extravagance is the ease with which a woman may earn money away from home. I dislike very much to attribute any untoward condition to what should be a matter of congratulation to us all perhaps, but I really believe that the higher salaries earned by women have caused them to be less mindful of their deeper obligations towards their children.

If they did not see ways and means of supplementing their husband's incomes by earning themselves, they might not fall so easily into the temptation to give their children what the neighbors' children get.

The cry of "Why can't I have

so and so—Mary Smith's mother has bought her one," is the hardest for the average mother to ignore from her children. They rush in with news of each article added to the nearby households.

They immediately begin a demand for a similar acquisition, and for the woman who can earn money on the outside of the home, there is the temptation to go out and get the wherewithal to buy her children the things her neighbors can afford. One seldom hears of a mother making a sacrifice to get things money cannot buy for her children.

A charming young mother who has sincerely tried to give her four youngsters the right values of life was astounded and angered a short time ago at the remark made by her eldest, a nine-year-old girl, when the family laid a carpet on the stair.

Well, I am certainly glad you bought a stair carpet at last," said the nine-year-old. I have been wondering how long you would wait before you bought one. Everywhere I go the houses have beautiful stair carpets and I have gotten mighty tired of going up and down these stairs without any covering."

This is a family of the well-to-do but with all the parents have provided, there was still one more thing that had been overlooked, according to the child's judgment, which, unfortunately, nowadays is based on what the family next door may have.

Some months ago I sat in a conference of mothers who had exactly this problem to face. They solved it by pledging themselves to stick together on a policy of not giving in to the demands made by their children on the basis of keeping up with the neighbors' standards.

Delinquency Increases.

The drift of the times is away from the home, and from the fire-side that symbolized all that was good and permanent to the boys and girls who are now adults. By the word home I do not mean a place of many rooms necessarily. By the fireplace I do not mean literally the cheery, warming twist of flares around logs. I am thinking of the Spirit of Home, that atmosphere which can only come from human character and not from stone or plaster or wood.

Never before have there been so many cases of juvenile delinquency as now come to the attention of the authorities. And I

might add in explanation that a juvenile delinquent may or may not have any connection with poverty. The children of the well-to-do frequently suffer from this lack of home atmosphere and the very rich are no longer keeping their recreations about their own hearths.

During the days that the mothers and fathers of the present younger generation were growing up, the girls were taught to play the piano and the boys to sing or play some instrument. The parents then made an effort to center all of their children's playtime activities around the home.

Neighbors' children were invited in for evenings of home pleasures which called forth effort on the part of each child to help entertain the others.

But in these days of the joy-ride and the jazz orchestra, such an evening would be regarded as a joke. Youngsters of twelve and thirteen years up have their separate evening engagements that send brothers and sisters to different quarters of the compass to spend their time.

Had Simpler Pleasures.

I will grant that it is easier to say, "Here is some money, run out and amuse yourself," to the eager, active young folks in the evening or the afternoon when they are released from school than it is to bother with them for several hours in youthful games. But is that the right way to handle the problem of the boys' and girls' play times?

It is much more interesting to amuse oneself at a bridge party or a dance or in the movie than to struggle with a dusty carpet, misplaced furniture and scattered music folios after the youngsters spend an evening at home. But aren't there compensations which paid recreation cannot buy, in the pleasure of seeing and knowing what your little family is thinking about and talking about when they are at play?

Only a generation ago our own young people held different standards of dress. Our young men and women were sent to boarding school or college, many of them having to work their way through the higher institutions, with a little simple outfit that was expected to last them throughout the school year.

They were satisfied, too, to have it so. They found their pleasures in the walks and nutting parties or marshmallow toasts which were inexpensive, for the college girls and boys had little money in those days for the extra things.

HOME OF MRS. MARY SURRATT, RENDEZVOUS OF THE BAND WHICH PLOTTED LINCOLN'S ASSASSINATION, BEING TORN DOWN

HISTORIC MEMORIES REVIVED BY RAZING OF H STREET HOUSE

Secret Meetings of Conspirators in Plot to Kidnap President Were Held There—Booth There on the Day of the Slaying—Payne Was Arrested There.

By CAPT. J. WALTER MITCHELL.

TRAGIC memories of fifty-six years ago are revived by the beginning of the demolition of the old Surratt house, 604 H street northwest. Workmen already have torn out part of the structure and in a short time the venerable landmark of ancient Washington will have been replaced by a modern building. In the meantime relic hunters have been busy collecting bits of wood and other material from the historic house.

Col. O. H. Oldroyd, a prominent member of the G. A. R., keeper of the Lincoln house, 516 Tenth street, northwest, where the martyred President died, who has the greatest collection of Lincoln relics extant, was approached several days ago by a man who had secured a lot of wood from the doors and windows of the Surratt house.

"I am going to make two picture frames with this material," he said, "and if you will supply two pictures of the building, I will frame one for you and the other for myself."

Colonel Oldroyd furnished the pictures, one of which illustrates this article, and it will be framed and placed on the wall of the Tenth street house where President Lincoln was taken from the Ford Theater, just across the street, after he had been fatally shot by J. Wilkes Booth, erratic actor and fanatic, the night of April 14, 1865. President Lincoln occupied a box and was enjoying Laura Keane's presentation of the drama, "Our American Cousin," when he was shot.

It has frequently been asserted

that secret meetings of the conspirators who first planned to kidnap the President and take him South, and later decided to assassinate him, were held at the home of Mrs. Mary Surratt on H street. Colonel Oldroyd said last night he has no information that the conspirators met there.

"Booth, the assassin, was only in the Surratt home on one occasion, the afternoon of the day Lincoln was killed," the colonel said. "He went there to give Mrs. Surratt ten dollars with which to hire a carriage to convey her to her country home at Surratsville, Md., thirteen miles from Washington."

"She was to notify a man named Lloyd, in charge of her country place, to be ready to hand out promptly guns and pistols in his possession that night to the conspirators in the event they were being pursued as they sped southward with the kidnapped President."

This statement of Colonel Oldroyd indicates that the determination to abandon the kidnaping plans and dispose of President Lincoln by assassination was only arrived at the day the deed was committed. Mrs. Surratt evidently made a quick trip to her country place as she was at home late that night when Payne came limping into the H street house after he had made a desperate attempt to take the life of Secretary of State Seward.

THROWN FROM HORSE.

While making his escape from the Seward mansion, Payne was thrown from his runaway horse. He determined to seek asylum at the home of Mrs. Surratt. On his

way there he borrowed a pickaxe and shovel and carried the tools across his shoulder. His knocking at the door of the H street residence was responded to by several soldiers who had gone there to arrest Mrs. Surratt in connection with the assassination.

"I have come to dig a ditch for the lady of the house," Payne explained.

The soldiers asked Mrs. Surratt if she had ordered a man to dig a ditch for her. She replied:

"No. I have no ditches to dig."

The soldiers thereupon took Payne into custody and with the woman he was incarcerated in the old Capitol Prison, still standing at First and A streets northeast. Colonel Oldroyd said Mrs. Surratt's connection with the conspiracy to do away with President Lincoln was traced from her previous activities with the so-called "underground railway," which extended from Baltimore with stations at Washington, Surratsville, and Pope's Creek.

CARRIED SOUTH'S MAIL.

Mail and information for the Southern Confederacy and its officials and soldiers was carried from Baltimore and Washington to the Surratt home at Surratsville, where it was turned over to John Surratt, son of Mrs. Surratt. John was the courier who carried the mail to Pope's Creek from whence it was ferried across the Potomac to Virginia and mail from the South brought back.

John Surratt was named as one of the murder conspirators and fled from this country. After a number of years when the excitement over the death of Lincoln had subsided, John Surratt was arrested at Rome, brought to Washington, tried and acquitted. He was a member of the famous Papal Zouaves at the Vatican, having enlisted under an assumed name and nationality. While on dress parade he was recognized by a former fellow student at the Maryland College.

The matter was reported to the American minister who placed the case before the Pope. When convinced that the zouave was Surratt,

LINCOLN PLOT HOUSE AND OWNER



The residence at 604 H street northwest where Lincoln conspirators met.

his holiness promptly surrendered him to the United States.

The late Samuel H. Reeder, a shoe merchant, who served during the civil war in a Washington militia company, the Metropolitan Rifles, engaged in guarding the approaches to the city and the public buildings, and later was for several years a member of the local police force, resided near the Surratt house at the time of the assassination.

He frequently asserted that the place was "a nest of Southern sympathizers," and that conspira-

tors against the Government met there behind locked doors and closed shutters. Reeder told of mysterious strangers, their forms concealed by long capes, who entered the Surratt home through the rear yard. He declared these wary visitors were Confederate spies and plotters.

NOW BEING RAZED.

The old landmark, now being razed, was erected many years before the civil war. It is three stories and an attic high with two quaint gable windows on top. The architecture is of the style so prevalent

when Washington was but a straggling town.

Old inhabitants say it originally was a farm house, surrounded by fertile fields and orchards. Afterwards it was converted into a boarding house and several Government officials of note sojourned there. It was occupied by Mrs. Surratt some time in the early part of the civil war. She conducted a rooming house where persons of Southern sentiment were welcomed.

Ten persons were charged with conspiracy to assassinate President Lincoln and certain of his Cabinet officers. Those so charged were J. Wilkes Booth, actor; Lewis Payne,

former Confederate soldier; George A. Atzerodt, a wagon maker from the Pope's Creek vicinity; David E. Herold, a feeble-minded youth who lived with his parents on Eighth street, southeast, near the Navy Yard, and was a plant tool in the hands of Booth; Samuel Arnold, who was not in the murder plot, but was alleged to be in the scheme to kidnap Lincoln, an incriminating letter having been found on his person; Edward Spangler, a stage hand at Ford's Theater; Michael O'Laughlin who lived in Baltimore in a house owned by Booth's mother, was a schoolmate of the assassin, and served in the Confederate army; John Surratt, reputed Confederate spy; his mother, Mrs. Mary Surratt, and Dr. Mudd who lived near Bryantown, Md. Four of these were hanged—Mrs. Surratt, Payne, Atzerodt and Herold.

The execution occurred on a large scaffold erected in the old Arsenal grounds at the foot of Four-and-a-half street, now Washington Barracks. The surrounding walls were lined with armed soldiers just from the battlefields of the South. Booth's death at the hands of one of his pursuers, Boston Corbett, made a total of five who paid the penalty for the death of Lincoln.

Pulls String on Ground and Gets Bag of Money

POTTSVILLE, Pa., Sept. 17.—J. S. Gottleshein, chairman of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, saw a string reaching up from the ground in his yard. Pulling on the string he drew out of the earth a bag of money containing \$300 in gold.

A wealthy family formerly occupied the home where the choir-master resides, and it is believed the money was buried treasure. For years it reposed nearly on the surface of the ground ready for any one to pick it up.

Third Set of Twins.

HOPE, Ind., Sept. 17.—A third set of twins has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Melvin G. Laagow, of Hope. The mother is but thirty. The couple have eleven children.

Poet's Verses In Cell May Win Him His Freedom

Chicago, Sept. 17.—Behind the cold stone of Fort Leavenworth Federal Prison a young English poet and newspaperman dreams of the day when he will again be a free man. And his dreams, taking the form of written verse are slowly finding their way over the country, may be about to be realized, for prominent and influential writers and others from every corner of the country are writing to Attorney-General Daugherty, asking that this young man be pardoned.

Charles Ashleigh is his name. He was sentenced from Chicago in August, 1920, by Judge K. M. Landis as a member of the I. W. W. He was sent to prison for ten years and fined \$10,000.

Ashleigh was born in London. After receiving an education in English and continental schools he was smitten with wanderlust. Leaving home he went to South America, where he worked as a journalist coming to the United States in 1912. One year later he became publicity agent for the I. W. W. at Everett, Wash. It was then that his troubles began. He was arrested and sentenced as a member of the I. W. W., though he claimed at that time and ever since that he took no active part in the affairs of the organization.

Among the people of prominence in the literary world who have espoused the cause of Ashleigh are Vachel Lindsay, poet of Illinois; Harriet Monroe, editor of Poetry; Hudson Maxium, Charles Rann Kennedy, author of "The Servant of the House"; Judge Anderson, of Boston; Mary Heaton Vorse, a writer, and others who believe in the innocence of Ashleigh. Their appeals are directed to the Attorney-General in the hope that he will recommend the pardon of the young man to President Harding.

Ashleigh's love of nature, the longing that led him to leave his home and go "on the road" as a tramp has remained with him and is to be found in the verses written by him while he languishes in prison. One of his poems that has gained popularity is entitled "When I Go Out."